of vacant/filled posts is not maintained centrally. However the approximate total number of vacant posts in Bhopal Division is 1663 and the on-roll strength is 16708 as on 01.04.2007.

(c) and (d) While monitoring the staff strength, due emphasis is kept on erficiency and safety of running trains, so that the desired quality of output is achieved by employing optimum number of staff. Due to exigencies of work it may become inevitable to book staff on overtime so that the services of railways are not unduly hampered.

(e) Filling of vacancies is a continuous process. Vacancies are filled primarily through open market recruitment and vacancies in the promotional grade are filled through departmental promotions.

Electrification of rail routes

†3340. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of his Ministry regarding electrification of railway divisions;

(b) whether it is not appropriate that maximum railway divisions are electrified;

(c) the number of proposals sent by the Government of Rajasthan regarding electrification of railway divisions; and

(d) their present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Policy for Electrification of Railway tracks/divisions is as under:

Electrification projects are considered primarily on economic considerations excepting projects justified as operational necessity. The criteria/guidelines being followed in this regard are as under:

(i) Each electrification project will be justified on Rate of Return, which should exceed 14% with the Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) method.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(ii) In certain specific cases, electrification will be justified on considerations of operational flexibility.

(iii) While proposing electrification of a route, the rail network in the region in totality should be considered to include, if necessary, short route lengths, which would otherwise remain non-electrified and reduce operational flexibility.

(b) Only 28.12% of total railway net work of Indian Railway is electrified.

(c) and (d) Following three proposals for electrification of railway tracks/ divisions have been recommended by Government of Rajasthan during last two years. The status are as under:

Sl. No.	Section	Status
1.	Bina-Kota	The electrification work has been sanctioned.
2.	Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur	Not viable.
3.	Ratlam-Neemuch-Chhitorgarh	Not viable.

Sale of tickets through petrol pumps

†3341. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been reached between Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Railways for sale for railway tickets;

(b) if so, the names of cities and number of petrol pumps where this scheme would be launched; and

(c) by when this scheme is likely to commence, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) IRCTC has signed memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) to sell railway tickets through internet (e-tickets) from their petrol pump/retail stores.

(b) and (c) This facility has alredy started at 36 locations in Bangalore, Bhubaneshwar, Chennai, Hyderbad, Kolkatta, Mumbai, New Delhi and Pune.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi